

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 OPIC-12 XMB-07 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

CEQ-02 EPA-04 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EA-11 EUR-25 DRC-01 /242 W
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R 091320Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 565

CARACAS FOR PETROLEUM ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OVIP ETRN TD

SUBJECT: GOTT ENERGY MISSION TO US

REF: STATE 44793 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. GOTT ENERGY MISSION PLANS VISIT TO WASHINGTON APRIL 13-17
NEAR END OF MULTI-NATION ITINERARY FOR BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT TO
GOVERNMENT EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE ON PETROLEUM MATTERS AND ENERGY-
RELATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. HOPEFULLY, MISSION MAY AFFORD
OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUING FOLLOW-UP DIALOGUE WITH GOTT HERE ON
ENERGY MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON FRANK ABDULAH, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN MINISTRY
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MARCH 8, TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING GOTT ENERGY
MISSION TO WASHINGTON. TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT WASHINGTON APRIL 13-
17 IS SAME MISSION WHICH HAS BEEN VISITING COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND
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EUROPE SINCE FEBRUARY 20 (POS 142, POS 411). TEAM WILL NOT RETURN

TO PORT OF SPAIN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WASHINGTON, AND IN FACT, NEARLY ALL SENIOR GOTT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY AND PETROLEUM MATTERS ARE ABROAD ON ONE OF VARIOUS MISSIONS TO OTHER PARTS OF WORLD AT THIS TIME, THUS LEAVING LOCAL CUPBOARD SOMEWHAT BARE OF OFFICIALS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ENERGY ISSUES.

2. ABDULAH DISCUSSED ENERGY MISSION WITH AID OF MIMEOGRAPHED, DOUBLE-SPACED "ANNEX" TO SOME CABINET DOCUMENT. THIS DOCUMENT MERELY LISTED PROPOSED AGENDA HEADINGS AS GIVEN IN REFERENCED DEPTTEL, WITHOUT ELABORATION, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT DID NOT GO MUCH DEEPER. NEVERTHELESS, FOLLOWING ASPECTS WERE GLEANED ON WHICH ABDULAH SEEMED RELATIVELY SURE OF HIS GROUND.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA GIVEN DEPARTMENT IS SAME AGENDA ENERGY MISSION IS USING FOR ALL OF ITS STOPS AND WAS NOT TAILORED PARTICULARLY TO GOTT-USG DIALOGUE. MISSION WILL BE CONCENTRATING ON BROADLY-BASED, EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC ISSUES.

4. IN WASHINGTON, PRIMARY FOCUS WILL BE ON AGENDA ITEM "A" REGARDING "FUTURE (SIC) DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY." GOTT WOULD APPRECIATE PRESENTATION OF USG VIEWS ON FUTURE OF ENERGY AND ENERGY-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

5. WITH REGARD TO AGENDA ITEM "B" ON "ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS IN DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM-BASED INDUSTRIES," ABDULAH NOTED THAT THIS RELATED PRIMARILY TO GOTT'S PRIORITY INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF DOWN-STREAM OPERATIONS AND ENERGY-USING INDUSTRIES TO UTILIZE NATURAL GAS RESERVES. IN SOME COUNTRIES, GOTT MISSION WILL BE EXPLORING PROSPECTS FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN JOINT VENTURES IN SUCH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN WASHINGTON, FOCUS OF INTEREST WOULD LIE IN EXPLAINING GOTT PRIORITIES AND PROSPECTS FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT AND IN CONTACTING THOSE ELEMENTS OF USG (E.G. OPIC AND EXIM) WHICH MAY IN FUTURE BE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING US INVESTMENT IN THIS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. WITH REGARD TO ITEM "E" ON "SHIPPING INDUSTRY," ABDULAH SAID HE THOUGHT MISSION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING ECONOMICS
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OF CRYOGENIC TANKERS, EVEN THOUGH AMOCO-PEOPLES-GOTT LNG PROJECT HAS BEEN SHELVED. ANOTHER TOPIC WHICH ABDULAH INDICATED MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON IN WASHINGTON IS USG LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR REGULATION OF OIL COMPANIES, INCLUDING SUCH FACTORS AS TAXATION, INCENTIVES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

7. ALTHOUGH WE PROBED TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOTT HAD ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND REGARDING OTHER AGENDA ITEMS, ABDULAH FINESSED

BY SUGGESTING THAT THESE WERE PROBABLY MORE APPROPRIATE TO OTHER STOPS ON MISSION'S ITINERARY. NATURALLY, WE WONDERED IF MISSION MIGHT TRY UNDER ITEM ON "AIR AND SEA COMMUNICATIONS" TO BRING UP GOTT INTEREST IN LANDING RIGHTS FOR BWIA IN CHICAGO AS MENTIONED IN PRIMIN WILLIAMS' LATEST TV SPEECH (POS 412). IF ABDULAH KNEW, HE WAS NOT TELLING.

8. GOTT MISSION HEADED BY EUGENIO MOORE WILL HAVE VISITED FOLLOWING COUNTRIES PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON: HONG KONG, JAPAN, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INDONESIA, GERMANY, NORWAY, FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM. MISSION WILL PROCEED ON TO CANADA VIA NEW YORK AFTER LEAVING WASHINGTON.

4. WHEN ASKED IF MISSION WILL ALSO BE TALKING TO PRIVATE COMPANIES, ABDULAH WAS DEFINITE IN DECLARING THAT THEY WERE NOT EXPECTED TO ON THIS TRIP, WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION AND EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE.

10. ALLOWING FOR POSSIBILITY THAT REFTEL AS RECEIVED HERE WAS SLIGHTLY GARBLED, NAMES OF TEAM'S PARTICIPANTS REPEATED BELOW WITH CORRECT SPELLING. BIO INFO WILL BE SENT BY SEPTTEL.

EUGENIO L. MOORE
BERNARD PRIMUS
THOMAS A. HAREWOOD
CARLOS HEE HOUNG

11. COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT DECISION TO INCLUDE USG ON ITINERARY MAY BE SOMETHING OF AFTERTHOUGHT, SINCE WE WERE NOT LISTED IN ORIGINAL GOTT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ABDULAH STATES ITINERARY HAS BEEN CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES. NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS HIGHLY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN DIALOGUE WITH GOTT OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT OF PRIMARY CONCERN BOTH HERE AND IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. DISCUSSION WILL BE MOST VALUABLE IF IT CAN LEAD TO CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE BACK HERE IN PORT OF SPAIN AFTER MISSION'S RETURN.

12. EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF GOTT INTENTION TO INCLUDE WASHINGTON ON ITINERARY UNTIL INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT. THIS IS TYPICAL OF CLOSED APPROACH OF GOTT HERE IN WHICH WE ARE ACTIVELY BUT SLOWLY FINDING SUITABLE CHINKS IN ORDER TO INSTITUTE MORE NORMAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS. WE ARE TAKING LINE HERE THAT WE ARE SEEKING DIALOGUE ON ENERGY IN ORDER THAT MISSION'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY BE MADE MOST PRODUCTIVE THROUGH APPROPRIATE ADVANCE PREPARATION ON PART OF USG. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF IN CONTACT WITH GOTT EMBASSY THERE DEPT NOTED THAT AMEMBASSY POS HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH GOTT IN ANTICIPATION OF WASHINGTON MEETING. AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO BE CALLING ON

PERTINENT CABINET MINISTERS WITHIN COMING WEEK AND OPPORTUNITYR
WILL THUS PRESENT ITSELF TO FURTHER EXPLORE THESE ISSUES.
MILLER

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